WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus which outputs data to be printed to a color image forming apparatus having a plurality of image forming units, transferring sequentially developed images in color to a recording medium, and forming a color image, comprising:

means for converting document data into image data; and

transfer means for transferring the converted image data in an order in which the data is printed on the color image forming apparatus in accordance with a delay among the image forming units of the color image forming apparatus.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said transfer means divides the converted image data in a band unit and transfers the data.

3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said transfer means compresses the image data divided in the band unit and transfers the data.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein before an image on a current page is completely formed by the color image forming apparatus, forming an image on a next page can be started by said

transfer means which transfers the image data on the
next page before completely transferring the image
data on the current page.

5   5. The apparatus according to claim 4, further
comprising:
        storage means for storing a memory capacity of
memory storing image data in the color image forming
apparatus; and
10   control means for controlling an order in which
the divided image data is transferred by said
transfer means depending on a data size of the
divided image data and the memory capacity.

15   6. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein
        when a storage capacity of the memory cannot
store the image data of the current page and the
image data of the next page in an overlapping portion
between the current page and the next page in an
20 image forming process, or when a storage capacity of
the memory cannot store the image data of the next
page and the image data of the current page in an
overlapping portion between the current page and the
next page in an image forming process, said control
25 means controls to transfer the image data of the next
page after transferring the image data of the current
page.

7. An information processing method for outputting data to be printed on a color image forming apparatus having a plurality of image forming units, transferring sequentially developed images in color to a recording medium, and forming a color image, comprising:

a converting step of converting document data into image data; and

a transfer step of transferring the image data converted in said converting step in an order in which the data is printed on the color image forming apparatus in accordance with a delay among the image forming units of the color image forming apparatus.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein said transfer step divides the image data converted in said converting step in a band unit and transfers the data.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein said transfer step compresses the image data divided in the band unit and transfers the data.

10. The method according to claim 7, wherein before an image on a current page is completely formed by the color image forming apparatus, forming an image on a next page can be started in said

transfer step which transfers the image data on the
next page before completely transferring the image
data on the current page.

5   11. The method according to claim 10, further
comprising:
       a storing step of storing a memory capacity of
memory storing image data in the color image forming
apparatus; and
10   a control step of controlling an order in which
the converted image data is transferred by said
transfer means depending on a data size of the
converted image data and the memory capacity.

15   12. The method according to claim 11, wherein
       when a storage capacity of the memory cannot
store the image data of the current page and the
image data of the next page in an overlapping portion
between the current page and the next page in an
20   image forming process, or when a storage capacity of
the memory cannot store the image data of the next
page and the image data of the current page in an
overlapping portion between the current page and the
next page in an image forming process, said control
25   step controls to transfer the image data of the next
page after transferring the image data of the current
page.

13. A program operated in an information processing apparatus which outputs data to be printed on a color image forming apparatus having a plurality of image forming units, transferring sequentially developed images in color to a recording medium, and forming a color image, comprising:

a converting step of converting document data into image data; and

a transfer step of transferring the image data converted in said converting step in an order in which the data is printed on the color image forming apparatus in accordance with a delay among the image forming units of the color image forming apparatus.

14. The program according to claim 13, wherein said transfer step divides the image data converted in said converting step in a band unit and transfers the data.

15. The program according to claim 14, wherein said transfer step compresses the image data divided in the band unit and transfers the data.

16. The program according to claim 13, wherein before an image on a current page is completely formed by the color image forming apparatus, forming an image on a next page can be started in said

transfer step which transfers the image data on the next page before completely transferring the image data on the current page.

5   17. The program according to claim 16, further comprising:

a storing step of storing a memory capacity of memory storing image data in the color image forming apparatus; and

10   a control step of controlling an order in which the converted image data is transferred by said transfer means depending on a data size of the converted image data and the memory capacity.

15   18. The program according to claim 17, wherein when a storage capacity of the memory cannot store the image data of the current page and the image data of the next page in an overlapping portion between the current page and the next page in an

20   image forming process, or when a storage capacity of the memory cannot store the image data of the next page and the image data of the current page in an overlapping portion between the current page and the next page in an image forming process, said control

25   step controls to transfer the image data of the next page after transferring the image data of the current page.

19. A color image forming apparatus which is
connected to an information processing apparatus over
a communications network, has a plurality of image
forming units, transfers sequentially developed

5 images in color to a recording medium, and forms a
color image, comprising:

reception means for receiving image data from
the information processing apparatus in a printing
order in accordance with a delay among the image

10 forming units; and

means for forming an image by sequentially
developing an image in color based on the received
image data, and transferring the developed image in
color to a recording medium.

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20. The apparatus according to claim 19,
wherein

said image data is divided in a band unit.

20 21. A color image forming method for use with
an apparatus which is connected to a terminal device
over a communications network, has a plurality of
image forming units, transfers sequentially developed
images in color to a recording medium, and forms a

25 color image, comprising:

a receiving step of receiving image data from
the terminal device in a printing order in accordance

with a delay among the image forming units; and

a step of forming an image by sequentially developing an image in color based on the image data received in said receiving step, and transferring the developed image in color to a recording medium.

22. The method according to claim 21, wherein said image data is divided in a band unit.

23. A computer-readable program for use with an apparatus which is connected to a terminal device over a communications network, has a plurality of image forming units, transfers sequentially developed images in color to a recording medium, and forms a color image, comprising:

a receiving step of receiving image data from the terminal device in a printing order in accordance with a delay among the image forming units; and

a step of forming an image by sequentially developing an image in color based on the image data received in said receiving step, and transferring the developed image in color to a recording medium.

24. The program according to claim 23, wherein said image data is divided in a band unit.